



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS**

DWS Policy Statement Number: PS 03-2020

Date: April 16, 2020

**Subject: Finish Line Grants (FLG) Tech Device Loaner
Program**

From:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Englert".

Jessica Englert
Assistant Secretary for Workforce

Purpose: To authorize Local Areas to create a program to loan laptops, tablets, or other similar devices to community college students who have an unmet need for technological devices directly related to the transition to e-learning caused by the state's response to COVID-19. To provide one-time funding interested Local Areas can use to purchase laptops, tablets, and other similar devices.

Background: The Finish Line Grants (FLG) Program is Governor Roy Cooper's initiative to assist community college students who are facing an unexpected financial hardship in completing their training. In order to be eligible for a FLG, a student must: (1) be experiencing a qualifying emergency; (2) be enrolled in and actively attending classes at a North Carolina community college; (3) have completed at least fifty-percent (50%) of their program of study; (4) be in good academic standing, which is defined as having a grade point average of 2.0 or higher; and (5) be eligible for, and enrolled in, Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

In order to promote the social distancing recommended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and adhere to the requirements of Executive Order 121, most community college courses are being delivered online. This transition has dramatically increased the number of community college students who need technological devices to attend and participate in training.

The Division has determined that COVID-19 and the related transition to e-learning, by itself, is not a qualifying emergency for purposes of the FLG Program. It has also issued guidance prohibiting future purchases of laptops, tablets, and similar devices for FLG recipients and encouraging Local Areas to meet this need through rental or loaner programs.

Local Areas can establish their own loaner programs. Recognizing that some Local Areas may need additional resources to purchase devices for this purpose, interested Boards can apply for a one-time grant of up to \$25,000. Funds awarded through this program can only be used to purchase devices for use by FLG recipients. Devices purchased using these funds cannot be used in career centers or issued to staff for use while teleworking.

Interested Boards must submit the Finish Line Grants Tech Device Loaner Program Inventory Funding Application (see Attachment 1) no later than April 22, 2020. Interested Boards can also use the following link to submit their application electronically:

[Finish Line Grants Tech Device Loan Program Inventory Funding Application](#)

The Division will evaluate each application and award up to \$25,000 to support this initiative.

Local Areas that operate a loaner program will be solely responsible for managing the program to include issuing, reclaiming, servicing, maintaining, and carrying devices on their asset inventory. Ownership of devices purchased for use in a loaner program cannot be transferred to any participant.

NOTE: This initiative is not related to PS 02-2020.

Action: Each Local Workforce Development Board may apply for this one-time grant by submitting the attached form no later than April 22, 2020. **Funds will be available one-time only and all expenses must be completed by July 31, 2020.** All purchases (including any software and service plans) will be owned by the board. All applicable procurement, contracting, and financial management policies must be followed.

Effective Date: Immediately

Expiration: July 31, 2020

Contact: Division Finish Line Grants Coordinator

Attachment 1: Finish Line Grants Tech Device Loaner Program Inventory Funding Application